TREASURES
Why Remain Catholic?

AT A GLANCE:
WELCOME to our brand-new series, *TREASURES: Why Remain Catholic?*

This series is addressing Catholics. If you're not Catholic, you're welcome to join us and feel free to listen and pick up what you can. But one thing is clear: The series does not aim to convert non-Catholics to become Catholic. Rather, the series aims to reconvert Catholics to love Jesus more.

AFTER THE SERIES:
We should be able to know the beginnings of the Catholic Faith, understand and appreciate the Faith, and reconnect with the founder of the Church, our Lord Jesus.

Talk 2: "Legacy"
Receive The Gift

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:

The second talk of this amazing series focuses on Legacy.

The talk is about "hot" beliefs that are distinctive to Catholics. To name a few of them: Purgatory, Mary, and the Saints.

In this talk, we learn why we believe what we believe—and dive more deeply into the profound treasures of our Catholic faith

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion:
Did you grow in your appreciation for a specific Catholic belief or practice? Please explain

ON PURGATORY

I. REVIEW THE KEY BIBLE VERSE

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15 NIV)

Ask members what were their beliefs about Purgatory before they heard this talk.

Point out: Why we pray for the dead.

We believe that Salvation is different from Sanctification. Yes, we're saved. But it takes a lifetime of Sanctification to become like Jesus.

So, we believe Purgatory starts here on earth. While you're alive. Purgatory is the Holy Spirit transforming you. Every single day, God is sanctifying you, purifying you, cleansing you so that you

Treasures

Talk 1: *History*

Talk 2: *Legacy*

Talk 3: *Family*

Big Day

Notes:

become more like Jesus. Every time you win over temptation, or you say yes to God's call, or you die to yourself for love, you are becoming more like Jesus.

But when we die, not all our weaknesses have been removed. So, we believe Purgatory continues after death. Before we enter Heaven, God still needs to perfect us through His fiery love.

On Mary and the Saints:

Review the Bible Verses about Mary: In the miracle of Cana, Mary told the servants, *"Do whatever he tells you."* (John 2:5 GNT). That's the entire message of her life. She wants you to follow Jesus. So that when God calls you, you too can say with her, *Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.* (Luke 1:38 NKJV)

Review the Bible Verse about praying for the intercession of the Saints: *The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."* (James 5:16 NIV)

Ask members what their beliefs about Mary and the Saints before they heard the talk.

Ask: Do you pray to Mary and the Saints?
Or do you pray for the intercession of Mary and the Saints?

Point out: You should pray directly to God.

You're not required to pray to Mary and the Saints for you to go to Heaven. They're not essential to our faith.

Remind members about this analogy: What is essential for a car to go from point A to point B? The entire engine, the wheels, the steering wheel, the pedals, and the basic metal frame to hold them together. That's it.

The air-conditioning? Not essential. Seats? You could sit on a wooden box. Seatbelts? Just hold really tight and pray hard. Rearview mirrors and side mirrors? Just keep turning your head left and right. Horn? Just shout really loud.

All these things are not essential to bring you from point A to point B. But if you drive a car, you want all those stuff there. It makes life easier.

Point Out: Jesus is giving you Mary and the Saints as your intercessors. Mary and the Saints are God's special gifts to us. Because when you follow Jesus, He always brings along His family. This family is found on Earth and Heaven. And Mary and the Saints are part of that big family.

II. ASK FOR REACTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

1. Ask members to mention answered prayers through the intercession of Mary or the Saints, and thank God for each answered prayer.

2. Pray for the intercession of Mary and the Saints for those who need to understand and appreciate the Catholic faith.

In the next meeting, remember to follow up members about their concerns.

Notes: